

First Peoples' Language Committee Of Washington State

Tribal

Representation

Colville

Jameson S'Klallam

Kallispel

Lower Elwha Klallam

Lummi

Makah

Confederated

Tribes of the

Chehalis

Muckleshoot

Nisqually

Nooksack

Port Gamble S'Klallam

Puyallup

Quinault

Samish

Skagit

Skokomish

Spokane

Quileute

Squamish Island

Suquamish

Swinomish

Tulalip

Yakama

Educational

Institutions

Represented

Antioch University

Gonzaga University

Heritage College

Northwest Indian College

Salish-Kootenai Tribal College

Wenatchee Valley College

Western Washington University

Whitworth College

On Friday January 17, 2003 the Washington State Board of Education and the Sovereign Tribal Nations of Washington State entered into an historic government to government relationship through the adoption of WAC 180-78A-700 "Washington State First Peoples' Language/Culture Teacher Certification Pilot Program." This Washington State Administrative Code outlines an agreement where the state of Washington honors the expertise of the tribal nations in the certification of teachers of language and culture. There are no words to express how elated we are at this significant accomplishment. The good feelings that come from this event stem from a much deeper place for people who have struggled for years with the devaluing of the native languages and cultures in the public school system; they have now seen them elevated to a place of public honor and importance.

We begin by extending our deepest reverence to the creator, our mother earth and all of creation for the gift of language and culture. Our most profound gratitude is offered to those who came before us, who in the face of brutal attempts to annihilate native peoples, persevered. They are our treasures; they are those to whom we are completely indebted for our heritages. We also acknowledge our inspiration, our children and our grandchildren, to whom we are grateful to pass on this gift.

As a testimony to the strength of our ancestors the language and culture continued to be taught generation after generation. We honor those who continue with this important work of teaching our language and culture to the next generation of teachers. We honor those who have been our teachers, who have passed on the languages and those who are students who receive the teachings and in their turn will pass them on.

The urgent need to continue our languages and cultures has become a catalyst for activism out of which grew the First Peoples' Language/Culture Committee. We honor all those who have sat on this committee. Each and every person, no matter how large his or her role, made an important contribution to our recent success.

We are deeply grateful for those who have spoken for us during the many meetings over the past years. Speaking is a gift from the Creator. Those who have represented our voice speak from the heart. We recognize this gift, receive it thankfully and extend sincere gratitude to them for their selfless willingness to share.

True leadership is service. We honor those who assumed roles of service, who were willing to listen to concepts outside their own frame of reference and to not make those wrong but to expand their frame to include these new ideas. We honor the tribal leaders, the State Board of Education, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the educators and the legal counsel; they are truly models of respect.

Finally we extend our deep appreciation and gratitude to Bruce Miller and his family, the Skokomish people, the Skokomish Youth Council, Marge Gouley, Denny Hurtado and the cooks for such a profound ceremony of celebration which was life transforming for each and every person present. It was our culture in practice, a celebration of life. It was beautiful, authentic. It was a powerful demonstration of who we are. We still have it; it is still preserved in our families, our communities. We can be very proud to be First Peoples.

The First Peoples' Language / Culture Committee

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Whitworth College

The First Peoples' Language/Culture Committee would like to express their sincere gratitude to the following people who have helped to make the First Peoples' Language/Culture Certification possible. They have donated their time, expertise and resources in countless ways.

Ancestors and Forgotten Ones

Elders:

Hazel Abrahamson, Colville
Matilda Bearcub, Colville
Agnes Davis, Colville
Elaine Emerson, Colville
Millie Steele, Colville
Elaine Grinnell, Jamestown S'Klallam
Francis Cullooyah, Kalispel
Bea Charles, Lower Elwha Klallam
Adeline Smith, Lower Elwha Klallam
Pauline Hillaire, Lummi Nation
Bill James, Lummi Nation

Sarah Peterson, Okanogan
Lillian Alexie, Spokane
Pauline Flett, Spokane
Vi Frizzell, Spokane
Ann McCrea, Spokane
Virginia McKenzie, Swinomish
Ida Williams, Swinomish
Hank Gobin, Tulalip
Vi Hilbert, Upper Skagit
Virginia Beavert, Yakama
Ella Jim, Yakama

Tribal Language/Culture Teachers:

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Ernie Brooks, Colville
Kenny Condon, Colville
Rita Condon, Colville
Milton Davis Jr., Colville
Linda Laungayan, Lower Elwha Klallam
George Adams, Lummi Nation
Theresa Parker, Makah

Misty Kalama, Puyallup
Merle Andrew Sr., Spokane
Orten Ford, Spokane
Mary Vivit, Spokane
Rosemary Miller, Yakama
Carmen Shone
Zalmai Zahir

Tribal Leaders:

Joe A. Pakootas, Chair Colville Confederated Tribes
Dennis Sullivan, Chair Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Darrel Hillaire, Chair Lummi Nation
John Daniels Jr., Chair Muckleshoot Tribe
Art George, Chair Nooksack Indian Tribe
Gordon James, Chair Skokomish Tribe
Alfred Peone, Chair Spokane Tribe
Herman Williams Jr., Chair Tulalip Tribes

Tribal Language or Culture Program Directors:

Maria DuPuis, Chehalis
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Jamie Valadez, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Ted Solomon, Lummi Nation
Maria Pascua, Makah Tribe
Valerie Bellack, Muckleshoot Tribe

Catalina Renteria, Nooksack Indian Tribe
Bryan Flett, Spokane Tribe
Marsha Wynecoop, Spokane Tribe
Linda Day, Swinomish
Toby Langen, Tulalip Tribes

Office of Indian Education:

Denny Hurtado, Program Supervisor
Joan Banker, Executive Administrative Secretary

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State Board of Education:

Bunker Frank, Vice President, Fourth Congressional District
Linda Lamb, Third Congressional District
Carolyn Tolas, Eight Congressional District
Larry Davis, Executive Director
Pat Eirish, Basic Education Research & Assistance Program Manager

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction:

Andy Griffin, Assistant Superintendent
Lin Douglas, Director Professional Education and Certification
Denise, Hummingbird, St. Peter

Governor's Office of Indian Affairs: Kimberly Craven

Organizations: Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
Washington State Indian Education Advisory Committee
Washington State Indian Education Association

Educators: Rodney Cawston, Colville
Martina Whelshula, Colville
John Boyd, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Dave BrownEagle, Spokane Tribe
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Raymond Reyes, Gonzaga University
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Robert Plumb, Heritage College
Bill Ponder, Eastern Washington University
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Mercedes Hinkson, Northwest Indian College
Sharon Kinley, Northwest Indian College
Barbara Roberts, Northwest Indian College
Angel Solomon, Northwest Indian College
Donner Ellsworth, Spokane Tribal College
Barbara Aston, Washington State University
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Kristen Denham, Western Washington University
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Tim Brewer, Tulalip Tribes

Advisors: Steve Gobin, Tulalip Tribes
John McCoy, Tulalip Tribes
Colleen Cawston, Colville
Patsy Martin, Yakama

Our Families